



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held March 25, 2008, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Chief Executive Officer's recommendation to approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health to prepare and execute four Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EES) agreements with the following contractors: 1) 1736 Family Crisis Center; 2) California Hispanic Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Inc; 3) Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center; and 4) Special Services for Groups, to provide temporary emergency shelters for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed and Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill Transition Age Youth, defined as youth 16 through 25 years of age under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), at a cost of \$201,667 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 and \$605,00 for Fiscal Year 2008-09, fully funded by MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan funds, effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2009; and authorize the Director of Mental Health to take the following related actions:

Prepare and execute subsequent EES Program agreements with eligible, qualified agencies, provided that the aggregate total payment to all contractors does not exceed \$201,667 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 and \$605,000 for Fiscal Year 2008-09, and the additional services and supports meet identified needs consistent with the CSS Plan; and

Prepare and execute subsequent amendments to the agreements provided that the applicable contracted night rate is not increased by 20%; any increase shall be used to provide additional services and/or supports or to reflect program and/or policy changes; the Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all additions and/or modifications; and the parties, by written amendment, mutually agree to reduce programs or services and revise the applicable contracted night rate.

(Continued on Page 2)

Arnold Sachs addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“We have before us today a recommendation to approve the allocation of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding for the provision of Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EESP) services for Severely Emotionally Disturbed and Severely and Persistently Mentally-ill Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 16 to 25. Foster children are a subset of TAY. As stated in my two previous motions, dated July 17, 2007 and February 12, 2008, directly investing Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding in the enhancement and improvement of approaches to addressing the mental health well-being of foster children is well within the stated purpose of MHSA.

“The EESP is not the only MHSA-funded housing program for TAY administered by the Department of Mental Health. Furthermore, there are a number of other existing housing and shelter programs for TAY administered by the Department of Children and Family Services, the Community Development Commission, the County’s Homeless Prevention Initiative and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Each program may have differing eligibility criteria that may or may not prioritize foster children; and each uses independent multi-million dollar funding streams that may or may not be coordinated within a continuum of inter-related services.

“For those foster children who will or have aged-out of County supervision without permanency, we need to provide continued services and financial supports. Previous legislative efforts to achieve this have failed due to financial considerations. Yet we have these various supportive housing and shelter programs which, if better connected to allow for integration and streamlining; and better defined to give current and former foster youth priority, may move the County closer to serving our most vulnerable youth more strategically and with greater efficiency.”

(Continued on Page 3)

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Approved the Chief Executive Officer's attached recommendation; and
2. Directed the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Mental Health, Director of Children and Family Services, Executive Director of the Community Development Commission and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), to report back within 30 days on the continuum of all of the various TAY housing and shelter services; how they compare and contrast; how they may be better integrated, coordinated and streamlined; and the priority within each given to serving current and former foster youth.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Mental Health
Executive Director,
Community Development Commission